

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 211303Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3761

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: NEW APPOINTMENTS

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF MARCH 15 ANNOUNCED THREE NEW APPOINT-
MRNTS. APPOINTEES WITH EMBASSY BIO INFO NOT YET AVAILABLE TO
DEPARTMENT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ABA-BIYA ABA-JPBIR, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF KAFFA REGION.
SON OF "THE ROYAL GALLA," ABA BIYA PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS VICE-
ADMINISTRATOR OF KAFFA. HE IS INTELLIGENT, WELL-EDUCATED WITH
POSSIBLY
AN LLB FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY. HIS APPOINTMENT IS SIGNIFICANT
AS HE IS A TRADITIONAL TRIBAL LEADER APPOINTED TO A KEY GOVERNMENT
POSITION IN HIS NATIVE REGION THIS PROBABLY INDICATES THAT THE
"DIRG" BELIEVES HE CAN BE TRUSTED, OR THAT HE CAN BE CONTROLLED --
MOST LIKELY THE LATTER.

(B) GETACHEW KIBRET, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS. GETACHEW HAS A BA FROM HSIU AND A BCL FROM MCGILL
UNIVERSITY. HE ALSO STUDIED IN ENGLAND WITH THE LATE ENDALKACHEW
MAKONNEN, WHO WAS CLOSE PERSONAL FIEND. HE SERVED IN VARIOUS
CAPACITIES IN THE MOFA, INCLUDING THAT OF CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER IN
THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND VICE-
MINISTER. HE ALSO SERVED AS ETHIOPIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO VARIOUS
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AS HAS HIS WIFE. GETACHEW WAS

ALLEGEDLY THE ONLY MOFA OFFICIAL TO ATTEMPT TO RESIGN FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THE AKLILU GOVERNMENT. IN THE RECENT ABSENCE "EN MISSION" OF FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO AND FOLLOWING THE TRANSFER OF MINSTATE YODIT IMRU AND ARAYA AKABA EGGY, GETACHEW KIBRET WAS ACTING FONMIN. UNLESS NEW MINSSTATE ARE APPOINTED, WHICH WE DOUBT, HE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN NO. 2 IN MOFA.

(C) ALEMENTE GEBRE-SELASSIE, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM AND ADMINISTRATION. A 31 YEAR OLD GONDARI, ALEMANTE HAS AN LLB FROM HSIU AND HAS WORKED AS A LAWYER IN THE MLRA. WHILE IN LAW SCHOOL, HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE HSIU LAW STUDENTS'S ASSOCIATION. EMBASSY BIO FILES SHOWS HIM TO BE POLITICAL MODIVATE, FRIENDLY TO THE US. WYMAN

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